WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Removal of Mosque from the Airport

610. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Airport mosque poses security threat" which appeared inthe Times of India, New Delhi dated the 13th October, 2002;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps Government are contemplating to remove the mosque from the airport in view of the increased security threat to aircrafts landing at the airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The mosque in question is falling under the developmental plan and extension of 2nd runway. Hence, Airports Authority of India has taken up with Government of West Bengal for shifting of mosque. In the meantime, to ensure that there is no breach of security, persons going to the mosque are frisked, their entry is regulated from gate No. 8, through a fence, and they are kept under the strict watch of Airport Security personnel.

Permission to Foreign Airlines for Enhancing Passenger Capacity

611. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to open skies during the peak winter season i.e. from December, 2002 to February, 2003 due to rush in traffic during the above period;

(b) whether Government are also thinking of giving permission to some of the foreign airlines to enhance their capacity of passengers and frequency beyond the bilateral rights;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the airlines to which permission has been given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The Government have issued

guidelines to take care of the peak season rush from 1st December, 2002 to 31st March, 2003 for the scheduled US/West European carriers who would be eligible to operate any number of flights during this period subject to commercial agreement with Air India.

Hindi/English Newspapers and Magazines in IA

†612. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of newspapers and magazines in Hindi and English being given to passengers on board in the Indian Airlines;

(b) what is the comparative percentage of the supply of the newspapers and magazines in Hindi and English;

(c) whether the percentage of Hindi is quite low in comparison to that of English;

(d) whether it is in contravention of Constitutional rights of the official language Hindi; and

(e) if so, the details of the proposal to increase the supply of Hindi newspapers and magazines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The names of newspapers and magazines in English and Hindi being uplifted for placement on board Indian Airlines flights are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The percentage of English is 55.75% in comparison to Hindi and other Newspapers and Magazines in vernacular languages *i.e.* 44.25%.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The difference in the upliftment of Hindi and English Newspapers and Magazines for 'on-board' reading, is largely due to the fact that the number of Newspapers and Magazines published in English is much more than those in Hindi.

Indian Airlines constantly reviews the requirement of upliftment of English and Hindi Newspapers and Magazines from time to time.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.